



Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Tuesday
February 28,
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Issue 42

Governor Togiola Tulafono at National Governor's Association winter meeting in DC

Governor Togiola and First Lady-Mrs. Mary Ann Tulafono joined more than 45 of the States and Territories' governors at a black-tie dinner hosted by President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush at the White House on Sunday night, February 26, 2006.

The annual event at the White House coincides with the National Governors Association winter meetings, which includes a private "governors only" session, including a meeting with President Bush, that provide governors a venue for sharing their thoughts and views on common challenges.

This past Monday, the governors returned to the White House for a meeting with President Bush, where he promoted his proposals to spend more on scientific research, math education and clean-energy technologies.

"America's governors are good allies in this effort, and I look forward to working with them in the year ahead," said President Bush on his weekly radio address this past Saturday.

Fighting the cold temperatures of the nation's capital at this time of year, Governor Togiola expressed his delight on the benefits and opportunities of participating in the annual winter convention of U.S. governors. "It is always a great opportunity to see the President and my fellow governors at these meetings because as governors we can learn a great deal from the candid exchange of ideas and the similar issues that we face as territories or states," said Governor Togiola. "I truly enjoy the sharing and how we engage in discussions about a variety of issues, policies and management strategies that applies to American Samoa." "I have also enjoyed the discussions on local and national health issues with a focus on health in schools, workplaces and communities during the meetings," said Governor Togiola. "These meetings are always productive and in seeing the President this weekend, I look forward to seeing former President Bill Clinton today, Tuesday, in a plenary session."

The NGA Winter Meeting will run until today, Tuesday, February 28th, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. Governor Togiola will return to the Territory on Sunday, March 5th.

Share important activities

in your Department, Agency or Office with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles to:

tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as

Or call Harry Stevens @ 733-1694

Or Vince Iuli @ 733-1041



Acting Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia addressing gathering at the Lions Park at Tafuna during launching of the "Year of the Sea Turtle".

Acting Governor Ipulasi A. Sunia launches the Year of the Sea Turtle

Acting Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia today joined the international community campaign to conserve sea turtles in a ceremony at Lions Park, Tafuna that launched the "Year of the Sea Turtle."

The event, billed as "Sacred, Heritage, Pride – Protect Our Sea Turtles", Acting Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia emphasized the need for cooperation between Pacific countries to ensure the survival of these endangered migratory animals. "They are not just sea turtles as a species of marine life, sea turtles play a major role in linking oceans, and countries and communities across the Pacific and around the world," said Acting Governor Ipulasi. "Our sea turtles, to many, are these cute ocean creatures admired by children and adults. They are the focus of investigative research for those in the know or want to know more. For some, the sea turtle is a traditional source of food. We all have a common interest in the conservation of our sea turtle."

(Continued on page 2)

Year of the Sea Turtle *(continued from page 1)*

Acting Governor Ipolasi said many nations are already working hard to conserve these remarkable animals, by protecting important habitats and requiring changes to fishing practices that are harmful to turtles. He said the Year of the Turtle celebration recognizes the important role of sea turtles in the marine environment, as well as their significant cultural value for people in many countries.

Sea turtles have inhabited the world's oceans for over 100 million years, migrating thousands of miles between feeding and nesting grounds. Today, six of the seven species of marine turtle - hawksbill, olive ridley, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, loggerhead and green - are classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered in warning list of Threatened Species.

Leading up to the launch of the Year of the Turtle, a poster and logo contest were sponsored by the departments of Commerce and Marine & Wildlife Resources. The winning entries of the contest were submitted by independent local artists. The top poster was drawn by Iusi Sosoli, 27, from Leone, while the winning logo was a creation of Louganis Sunia, 21, of Nu'uuli. Both received humongous gift packages for their efforts.

"We have contributed greatly against the survival of sea turtles and now is the time, through all of our concerted efforts of conservation to make a difference by reversing this very sad trend and act together as a community whose home is surrounded by this same vast ocean that is home to our sea turtles. It's not too late if we start today," said the Acting Governor.



Acting Governor Ipolasi Aitofele Sunia cuts ribbon to launch "Year of the Sea Turtle" at the "Sacred, Heritage, Pride – Protect Our Sea Turtle" ceremonies at Lions Park.

News from ASCC:

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges accepts ASCC Midterm Report

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) recently received some welcome news from Dr. Barbara A Beno, President of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). In a letter dated January 31st of this year, Dr. Beno wrote, "I am pleased to inform you that the Midterm Report was accepted and the Commission commends the institution for having made substantial progress on the team's recommendations and for addressing each planning issue as identified in the Self Study Report." In simpler terms, ASCC not only can rest assured with regards to the status of its accreditation, but has actually earned the praise of the Accrediting Commission itself.

Asked what she considers the most crucial factors that make accreditation essential, American Samoa Community College (ASCC) President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i explained, "Just to begin with, it qualifies our institution to receive Pell Grant funding from the U.S. Federal Government, and also enables our students to transfer their credits earned at ASCC to other colleges and universities in the nation." Basically, accreditation gives an institution of higher learning its legitimacy.

Cousteau Advocate Gives Guest Lecture at ASCC

Dr. Richard Murphy, Science and Education Director for Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society, visited the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) this week to give a guest lecture to Marine Science students on Sustainable Reefs. Dr. Murphy spoke to 35 students enrolled in MSC 160, Natural Marine Resources, and MSC 170, Marine Biology.

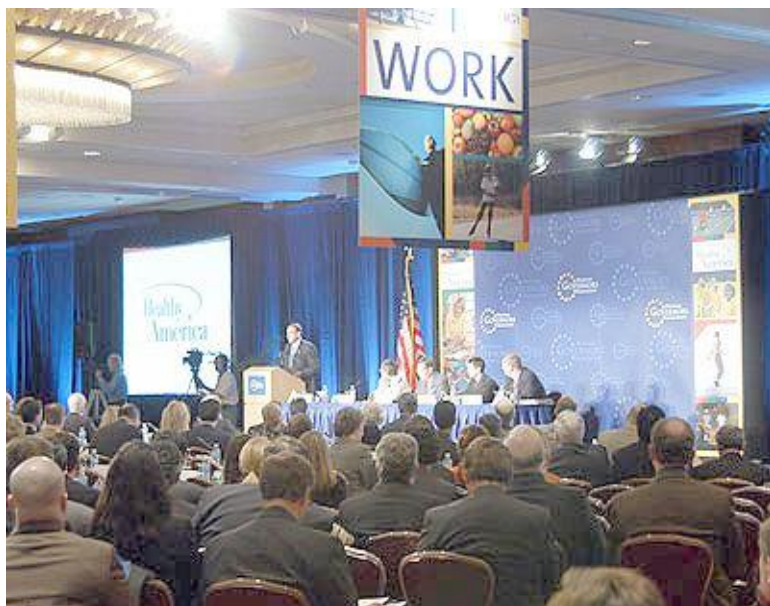
Sustainable Reefs is a coral reef education and awareness-building initiative tailored specifically to American Samoa. Its goal is to show people the value of coral reefs, how they are threatened by human activity, and what can be done to protect them. The program illustrates why various factors like deforestation, pollution, destructive fishing practices, over-fishing, and global warming are harmful to reefs.

"Students in American Samoa are really fortunate to have such a vast coral reef both to study and to learn from," said Dr. Murphy. "Like a city, a coral reef is home to gardeners tending to their plants, recyclers cleaning up the community, guards protecting territory, and partners relying on each other. But no city matches a coral reef's efficiency. Nothing is wasted."

Call Center Visitors Impressed With ASCC Technology Resources

The visit earlier this month by members of the Erie Management Group (EMG), accompanied by representatives of a "major player" in the call center industry spent several hours on the ASCC campus, touring its library, computer labs, and the Pacific Information and Communications Technology Academy (PICTA) facility.

Workers at call centers take information from customers over the phone, and simultaneously use computers to convey this information to the appropriate business. Therefore, the establishment of a call center in American Samoa would require a workforce with not only a fluency in English, but also a mastery of basic computer skills. After stopping by one of the college's computer classes, then viewing a presentation at the PICTA facility, Bill Cooney of EMG said, "I'm impressed with what's going on, and the College has lots of potential. ASCC will be beneficial for technology enterprises in the Territory." Over the course of their campus tour, several of the businessmen made it a point to stop and converse with students they met along the way, and they later commented positively on both the students' friendly personalities and their effortless English-speaking skills.



National Governors Association Chairman - Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and NGA Vice Chair - Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, officially open the 2006 Healthy America Forum which kicked off the annual winter meeting at J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington DC on Saturday. The meeting is being attended by more than 45 governors of states and territories, including Gov. Togiola Tulafono of American Samoa. President George W. Bush and First Lady-Mrs. Laura Bush hosted a black-tie dinner at the White House on Sunday night, where Gov. Togiola and Mrs. Mary Ann Tulafono attended. The NGA winter meeting ends tomorrow with a keynote address by former President Bill Clinton. Gov. Togiola will return to the Territory on Sunday, March 5th.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commissioner, Paramount Chief Sotoa M. S. Savali, for the Department of Public Safety, American Samoa Government, do hereby gives notice, pursuant to the American Samoa Code Annotated Title 46, chapter 25, and the American Samoa Administrative Code, section 4.1005, of his intent to adopt an ***Inmate Handbook and Drug Free Work Place Policy***. All interested persons may examine these documents and present their view of the proposed Inmate Handbook and Drug Free Work Place Policy at the Office of the Commissioner in Fagatogo between 0800 and 1600 hours, Monday to Friday. You have twenty calendar days from the date of this intended notice to file any amendments or objections with the Office of the Commissioner.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM
with: Governor Togiola Tulafono
Saturdays @ 7a.m.
on: Showers of Blessings-FM 104.7
Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorenson, Historian

On February 22, 1916, the first class of Samoan nurses graduated from the U.S. Navy's Nurses' Training School in Fagatogo, American Samoa. (1d. Bryan 1927: 75)

On February 22, 1916, Mr. David Dykstra signed a contract to become the principal of American Samoa's high school, which was a small wooden building. Mr. Dykstra's contract included the following provisions: "salary \$100 a month for the first year, then \$110 a month; transportation furnished; free quarters; if not, \$10 a month extra in lieu thereof." (1d. Bryan 1927: 87)

On February 22, 1921, Western Samoa's Administrator, Colonel Robert Ward Tate of the New Zealand Army, in a letter to American Samoa's Governor, Captain Waldo Evans, USN, offered his opinion of equality and self-government for the Samoans: "This idea of equal rights for white and browns is responsible for much of the unrest." [referring to the *Mau*]. "It is too strong meat for them and their attempts to apply the idea are ludicrous at some times---pitiful at all times. They would like to govern the country themselves, and their only notion is the autocratic rule of chiefs." (1a. Field 1984: 56)

On February 22, 1951, the U.S. Navy ended its administration of American Samoa. (1a. Gray 1960: 259)

On February 23, 1900, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley wrote to the Navy Department regarding his position as Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, saying that it would be better "if the officer charged with this responsibility has the explicit authority of this Government and knows its wishes." Unbeknownst to Tilley, President William McKinley had already signed the executive order giving him the authority that he wanted. Tilley did not receive his orders, and a copy of the executive order, until April 4, 1900, in Apia. (1d. Bryan 1927: 54, 56)

On February 23, 1901, "the Secretary of the Navy [John D. Long], with the approval of the President of the United States [William McKinley], ordered that no license be granted for the sale of wines and liquors" at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila. (1d. Bryan 1927: 93)

On February 23, 1912, American Samoa's Governor, Commander William Michael Crose, issued his "Regulation to Enforce the Educational Rights of Children" and his "Compulsory Education Regulation of 1912." These regulations required all children between the ages of 6 and 13 to attend school at least four days a week during the school year. (1d. Bryan 1927: 84)

On February 23, 1944, the U.S. Navy's First and Second Construction Battalions ("Seabees") returned to the United States from Tutuila. (2a. Burke 1945b: 74 n.52)

On February 23, 1951, Captain Thomas Francis Darden, Jr., American Samoa's 35th (and last) naval governor (July 7, 1949-February 23, 1951), delivered his farewell address. (2a. Thompson 1990: 27)

On February 23, 1951, Phelps Phelps took office as American Samoa's first appointed civilian governor (until June 20, 1952). (2a. Thompson 1990: 27; 6. Sorenson 2003: 3)

On February 23, 1951, the *Fono* (Territorial Legislature) of American Samoa, in a program printed for the transfer of jurisdiction from the Navy Department to the Department of the Interior, paid this tribute to the Naval Administration: "The Fono, in behalf of the people of American Samoa, wishes to place in the record of history the significance of the termination of 51 years of naval administration. Mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation has been the keynote of our long relationship. Our appreciation for the guidance and leadership of the Navy in helping American Samoa to move forward is deep-seated and everlasting. Turning its head to the past, Samoa is sorrowful to bid farewell to a good and loyal friend, the Navy." (1b. Hall 1985: 339)

On February 24, 1883, Future *Mau* leader Taisi Olaf Frederick Nelson was born at Safune, Savai'i to August Nilspiter Gustav Nelson and Sina Masoe Nelson. (1a. Field 1984: 66; 1a. Tarburton 1996: 62-64)

On February 24, 1928, landing parties of Royal Marines and Naval officers debarked from the cruisers HMS *Dunedin* and HMS *Diomed* of the New Zealand Squadron. They landed at the Customs and Tivoli wharves in Apia, in order to envelop 400 *Mau* members in a pincer movement. The *Mau* made no attempt to resist arrest, and, surrendering peacefully, they were taken to Vaimea Jail, which was too small to hold them.

On February 24, 1942, the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, was tactically assigned to the 8th Marine Regiment. "At this time, 40 cents per diem was authorized for commuted rations to Samoan Marines living in isolated bays and inlets to enable them to purchase Samoan foods from native civilians." (more Historical Notes on page 4)

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Date: **February - 2006**

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency routinely monitors public water systems for the protection of public health. On the 2nd & 9th of February 2006, Total coliform and Fecal coliform (*E-coli*) bacteria were found in the village waters in Fagamalo, Fagalii, Vatia, Afono, and Onenoa. These bacteria could make you sick, and are particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST:

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) advises these villages to bring all water to a boil. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, baby formula, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until the villages are connected to the ASPA or ASG water system. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in water.

Bacteria in the water can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Please be advised that it is illegal and dangerous to public health to cross connect village water systems to the ASPA water system. The mayors are advised to initiate cleaning activities in watershed and water catchments to minimize the contamination.

Togiola Talalelei A. Tulafono,
52nd Governor of American
Samoa was born on
February 28, 1947.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
GOVERNOR!!!

More Historical Notes:

On February 24, 1948, the *American Samoa Code* was amended to provide for a bicameral legislature, with a House of *Ali'i* and a House of Representatives. (1a. Darden n.d.: 10; 1a. Gray 1960: 249)

On February 25, 1868, Malietoa Laupepa was proclaimed "King" of Samoa. The French reported that the proclamation was inspired by consul J.C. Williams.

On February 25, 1945, the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila's new recreation hall was completed by the Seabee's Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 506. Divine services were held there each Sunday thereafter. Prior to that time, "Protestant Services were held in a warehouse, which was also used as the movie pavilion." The Navy's official historian of wartime Tutuila added that "The Chaplain on this station was charged with collateral duties, such as Librarian, Training Officer, and Secretary-Treasurer, American Red Cross. Until 1 January, 1945, the Naval Station Chaplain was also the Director of Education for the Government of American Samoa." (2a. Burke 1945b: 144)

On February 26, 1921, Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich Solf, former Imperial Governor of German Samoa, presented his credentials as Germany's Ambassador to Japan.

On February 27, 1941, USS *William P. Biddle*, carrying the U.S. Marine Corps' 7th Defense Battalion (minus an advance detachment) weighed anchor at San Diego and set sail for Pearl Harbor and Tutuila.

On February 28, 1887, Otto Carl Dowling, American Samoa's 23rd naval governor (April 17, 1934-January 15, 1936), was born in Melrose, Massachusetts. (2e. USNHC: Dowling RO)

On February 28, 1943, the designation of the "First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Tutuila, Samoa" was changed to "First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, 2nd Defense Battalion, Reinforced, 2nd Marine Brigade." A month later, in March, 1943, it was changed again to "First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, 2nd Defense Battalion, Reinforced, Fleet Marine Force, in the Field." (2a. Anonymous 1945: 17)

On February 28, 1947, Talalelei (later Togiola) Tulafono, American Samoa's fifth elected lieutenant governor, was born in American Samoa. (5. Tulafono 1997)

ASEPA BEACH ADVISORY

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) wishes to inform the public that on 02/14/06 the following recreational beaches were found to be contaminated with enterococci bacteria levels that exceed ASEPA Water Quality Standards:

Malota- Stream Mouth, Malota
Leone Pala (near bridge), Leone
Fagasa-Fagale'a Beach (near stream), Fagasa
Aua-Stream Mouth (near bridge), Aua
Alega-Stream Mouth, Alega
Alofau-Stream Mouth (near 1st bridge, Asasama)

Asili Beach (across LMS Church, Asili
Pala Lagoon (adjacent playground) Nu'uuli
Vatia-Stream Mouth (2nd bridge) Vatia
Laulii Tuai – Stream Mouth, Laulii
Fagaitua-Stream Mouth (Across Ploice Station)

The public should not swim, wade, or fish within 400 feet of these polluted beaches. This advisory is in effect until further sampling and laboratory analyses indicate that enterococci concentrations are within water quality standards.

Water that contains excessive concentrations of enterococci bacteria is correlated with swimming-associated gastrointestinal diseases. Enterococci bacteria reside in the intestines of warm-blooded animals. Their presence in water indicates contamination by human and/or animal wastes. Swimmers in polluted water are at risk for many waterborne diseases, some of which may cause serious illness.

Note: ASEPA laboratory monitors the water quality of 42 recreational beaches on Tutuila, the wharf in Aunu'u, and five beaches on Manu'a. Tutuila advisories are issued weekly. Aunu'u and Manu'a advisories are issued monthly. Advisories are issued when bacteria concentrations exceed levels determined safe for human exposure. Questions should be directed to the ASEPA Water Program at 633-2304.